



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

May 11, 2005

TAMPA ATTORNEYS INDICTED FOR BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

Tampa, Florida - Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging Brian J. Almengual and his wife, Suzanne C. Warner-Almengual, with criminal violations arising out of a personal bankruptcy case filed by them in the United States Bankruptcy Court in Tampa in 2001. Each of the violations charged in the indictment carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Both Almenguals are attorneys who are licensed to practice law in Florida. The couple practiced at one time under the professional name Almengual-Warner, P.A., with an office located in Tampa. Mr. Almengual specialized in bankruptcy law and represented clients in the United States Bankruptcy Court in Tampa. Mrs. Warner-Almengual specialized in personal injury law and marital law.

The indictment charges the Almenguals with six counts of bankruptcy fraud and related violations as well as one count of conspiracy to commit bankruptcy fraud. The

indictment alleges that the Almenguals filed a joint voluntary bankruptcy petition under Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code in February 2001, which was converted to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy case in October 2001. The indictment alleges that during the course of the bankruptcy proceedings, the couple conspired to conceal real and personal property which they owned from the Bankruptcy Court and their creditors. It is further alleged that the Almenguals filed false bankruptcy schedules with the Bankruptcy Court which failed to list all of the property which they owned or had an interest in and that they gave false sworn testimony concerning the bankruptcy schedules.

The case was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the United States Trustee's Office in Tampa. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dennis I. Moore.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.